

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02042 161644Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

EA-06 SAJ-01 /071 W

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R 161611Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6065

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

CONFIDENTIAL YAOUNDE 2042

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, CM, UR, CH

SUBJ: VISIT OF SOVIET NAVAL WARSHIP TO DOUALA

1. OFFICIAL CAMEROON NEWS AGENCY (ACAP) AND CAMEROON TRIBUNE HAVE JUST ANNOUNCED EX POST FACTO THAT SOVIET WARSHIP "VORONEDSKI KOMSOLETS" MADE OFFICIAL VISIT TO DOUALA 10-14 JUNE 1975. SHIP REPORTEDLY RECEIVED AT CAMEROONIAN ARMED FORCES FACILITY IN DOUALA PORT AND COMMANDING OFFICER CAPTAIN EVGENIY MIKHAILOVICH ZVIAGIN RECEIVED FOR COURTESY CALL BY NAVAL COMMANDER PIERRE NDANGANG ON DAY ARRIVAL. LATTER VISIT SHIP NEXT DAY ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL TOP STAFF OFFICERS AS DID ALSO LITTORAL PROVINCE GOVERNOR MARCEL MENGUEME AND ENTOURAGE ON JUNE 12. SOVIET CREW SAID TO HAVE ENJOYED VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL MATCHES WITH CAMEROONIAN NAVAL PERSONNEL.

2. LOCAL PRESS ITEMS GIVE FOLLOWING PARTICULARS ON VESSEL:

LENGTH 115 METERS; DRAFT 5.30 METERS; DISPLACEMENT 4,000 TONS; CREW 246 MEN INCLUDING 20 OFFICERS; AND MILITARY CARGO CAPACITY OF "EASILY TRANSPORTING 80 TANKS" OR COMPARABLE VEHICLES.

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 02042 161644Z

SEVASTOPOL CITED AS HOME BASE OF SHIP, WHICH SAID TO HAVE

VISITED OTHER SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PORTS, VIZ, DAKAR AND CONAKRY, BEFORE DOUALA CALL. PER CAMEROON TRIBUNE, NEXT DESTINATION "NOT DISCLOSED FOR REASONS OF SECURITY".

3. COMMENT: "VORONEDSKI KOMSOLETS" VISIT FIRST EVER OF SOVIET WARSHIP TO CAMEROON. WHILE MOTIVES BEHIND TYPE VESSEL INVOLVED AND PRECISE TIMING CALL CANNOT YET BE DISCERNED, POSSIBILITY EXISTS IT COULD PRESAGE AT LEAST TOKEN MILITARY ITEM ON SOVIET AID LIST IN FUTURE. SPECULATION TO THIS EFFECT FURTHER ENCOURAGED BY INTENSIFIED SINO-SOVIET COMPETITION LATELY FOR GURC FAVOR AND BY WIDESPREAD RUMOR, SEEMINGLY WELL-FOUNDED ALTHOUGH STILL OFFICIALLY UNACKNOWLEDGED, THAT GROUP CAMEROONIAN NAVAL PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN IN CHINA SOME MONTHS PAST ON TRAINING STINT.

MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975YAOUND02042
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750209-0459
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750645/aaaaboqu.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF SOVIET NAVAL WARSHIP TO DOUALA
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, CM, UR, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006